

Mechanical Memories Magazine

ISSUE 39

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The only UK magazine dedicated to Vintage Coin-Operated amusements

Mechanical Memories Magazine

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Editorial

Hello again, and here we are with issue 39. A little later than intended, but what's new? I've been battling to get this finished, and prepare the auction catalogue at the same time, which has probably taken longer than doing one at a time. Anyway, some of you will receive this magazine before others. If you haven't yet ordered a catalogue (and why not), you will receive the magazine first. If you have ordered a catalogue, I'll post the magazine together with the catalogue a couple of days later, when the catalogues are back from the printers. If you are a vendor, then you'll get the magazine first, and the catalogue when I've had a chance to print the sticky lot numbers. I hope all that makes sense! In short, if you speak to another subscriber who has received his magazine, and you have not, the reason is probably somewhere in the gobbledegook above!

Now, I mentioned the yellow subscription renewal forms last month, since when a subscriber has emailed me to say he was sure his subscription was due last month, but had not had a form included with his October magazine. This brings me to a point I should have made some time ago. You'll remember there was no magazine back in July, and because of this, I have extended everyone's subscription period by one month. This was only intended as a temporary measure, as I had intended to produce a 'Special' 2009 issue later in the year. However, as we're rapidly running out of '2009' it looks like it might not happen, so I guess everyone's subscription will be permanently extended by one month.

And finally, I also mentioned back issues last month. I'm hoping that all the reprints will be ready in time for the auction, and aim to be able to put together a dozen or so full sets of each year (volumes 1, 2 and 3). If all goes to plan, they will be on sale at the auction, but please get in quick – when they're gone, that's it! I will not be reprinting again.

Well that's about it for now. If you haven't yet ordered your auction catalogue, do it now! You really won't want to miss this one – our biggest event yet.

See you on the 29th

All the best

Jerry

News and Coming Events

My New Website

Since mentioning my new MMM site last month, if any of you have been checking daily (although there's no reason why you would), you will have noticed that it's been changing quite frequently, almost on a daily basis. I've added pages, deleted pages, consolidated pages and generally moved things around. To be honest, I started to think it was going to get out of hand and rather over-complicated; after all, it was only intended to be a small site, to promote my arcade. Anyway, it's more or less about right now, although I've not yet managed to compile the magazine page, as I've been rather bogged down with this issue and preparing the auction catalogue.

Over the next couple of days, I shall post pictures of some of the auction lots on the News page. Vendors have supplied a good number of pictures this time, so it will take a while to assign lot numbers to them all, but I'm hoping I'll have it done by the time you read this.

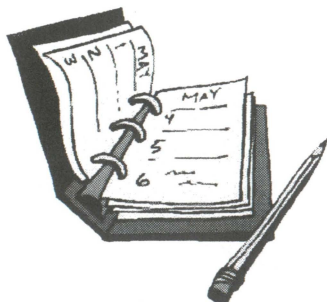
www.mechanicalmemoriesmuseum.webeden.co.uk

Chrome Plating in the USA

I know some of you have experienced difficulty in getting parts chrome plated, either because platers can't be found or they're too expensive, or rubbish. In the past, I've used The London Chroming Co. on the Old Kent Road, whose work is excellent, but equally expensive. Many platers have closed in recent years, as there just isn't the same demand for plating as there used to be, and there are no doubt many of you living in parts of the country where platers just cannot be found. I received details from Simon Stern recently, of a plater in America, which could be a viable alternative. Here's what Simon says:

I now have a contact in the USA for chrome plating (it's cheaper and better than UK work even with postage costs). He will turn around in 2 to 3 weeks and the work is the best I have ever seen. So if anyone needs proper chrome plating, call Craig Bierman on 001 713 921 0235 or go to speedsportchrome.com. Mention my name and he will do a really good discount on normal prices.

Postage costs to the States, for small items at least, are not as expensive as you might think, so for some, this could be an option. If you try it, let me know how you get on.



Dates for your diary

MMM Vintage Slot Collectors' Show & Auction 29th November
Coundon Social Club, Coventry

2010

Brighton Jukebox Show 17th & 18th April
Brighton racecourse

Bonhams Mechanical Music & Scientific Instruments Sale 28th April
Knightsbridge

Bonhams Mechanical Music & Scientific Instruments Sale 18th May
Knowle

Great Dorset Steam Fair 1st – 5th September
Tarrant Hinton, Dorset

Jukebox Madness Show 25th & 26th September
Kempton Park racecourse

Don't forget – if you know of any event which would be of interest to readers of the magazine, please let me know so that I can include details in these pages.

Dreamland

MARGATE

Save Dreamland Update November 2009

The Dreamland project can only happen if we secure sufficient grant funding from a number of organisations, plus funding from the landowner that has already been agreed in principle. In total, we need £12.4m. The grant funding application to Heritage Lottery Fund for £2.6m was submitted on 31 March by The Dreamland Trust, with loads of assistance from the Princes Regeneration Trust. We had several meetings with Heritage Lottery and they were always very positive about our proposals, so we were hopeful. The application to DCMS for the £4m of Sea Change funding was submitted on 30 April. The balance is coming largely from the developers (MTCRC), with some additional grant funding from a number of other organisations, including Thanet District Council. MTCRC will also transfer ownership of 51% of Dreamland, including the Scenic Railway and Cinema, to The Dreamland Trust once funding is in place. I am pleased to say that we were successful in securing our first round pass from Heritage Lottery, which means we now have a total of £548,000 of funding. We are still awaiting the Sea Change decision, but at the time of writing it is only days away.

The Scenic Railway will be the centre-piece of the Park. The Margate Scenic Railway was the first amusement ride in the UK to be afforded statutory protection by being listed Grade II in 2002 (which is, incidentally, how I found myself involved in this whole project from the start, having been the person who made the application to DCMS way back in 2001!). Other rides will supplement the Scenic Railway. They will be imaginatively 'built-in' to the park environment. A number of rides have been rescued from amusement parks and acquired by The Dreamland Trust, with the logistical and financial support of MTCRC. They represent a selection of seminal examples of heritage rides from the early 20th century to the late 1960s.

The design of the park takes inspiration from numerous examples of successful theme parks throughout the world, such as Liseberg in Sweden, Gröna Lund in Stockholm and Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. The business plan contains a detailed assessment of the audiences for the project and the impact that it is likely to have in attracting them. Based on comparison with other attractions, it predicts 700,000 visits per year, with 350,000 paying for entrance on to rides.

Next issue, I will tell you if we were successful in our £4m bid from Sea Change, and about how we are putting a team together to build the amusement park through 2010.

Nick Laister

Chair of Trustees, The Dreamland Trust

www.dreamlandmargate.com

Nickel Plating at Home

By Stuart Dale

As a dedicated slot machine collector you will at some time or other have come across the subject of re-plating the worn parts on your cherished machines. Be it a control knob, coin entry or just a bit of the trim, for most of us it means sending the parts away to have them re-plated. It is usual to have them chromed, as this gives a hard wearing surface, but if the parts are for show only and not subject to lots of wear you could try nickel plating the parts yourself. I have used this method myself, and have had quite good results. There are no deadly chemicals or acids to worry about, and the set-up costs are very low, about £20.00 should get you up and running.

You will need some **nickel sulphate** crystals, which can be bought on Ebay. You get 400g for about £6.00, I get mine from 'Home_and_Hobby_Chems' (that's their Ebay name). You will also need some **distilled malt vinegar**, that's the clear stuff that looks like water, not the regular brown vinegar that you put on your chips; you can get this from Tesco for less than 50p/500ml. Next you will need a **12volt car battery charger** with an ammeter on the front; the ammeter will help you to control the plating process. A couple of 3mm Nickel **welding rods**, I begged mine from a local welding shop. A **plastic container** big enough to take the item you want to plate, I use a large ice cream tub. You will also need a pair of **rubber gloves** and you are ready to have a go at Nickel plating your own slot machine parts.

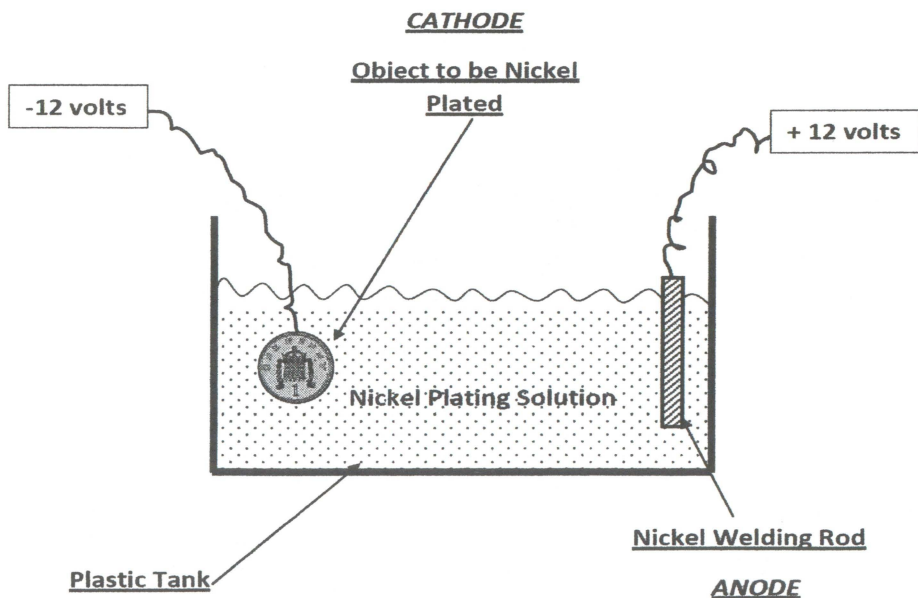
Now it's time to get to grips with the practical and plate some parts, but first a quick word on health and safety. The first thing you should do when you get your delivery of nickel sulphate, is read the manufacturer's instructions on the packet. Always use a common sense approach when handling the dry nickel sulphate or nickel plating solution, and always make sure your workshop is well ventilated. I always work with the window open, with a desk fan moving the air around in the room. Don't smoke or eat when plating, and always wear rubber gloves to avoid skin contact whenever possible, and wash your hands thoroughly when you have finished.

Let's get started – rubber gloves on!!!

First you need to mix the plating solution. I always put a level table spoon of the dry nickel sulphate salts into 500ml of distilled malt vinegar, then replace the bottle cap and gently shake the bottle and put it to one side until the nickel sulphate salts have completely dissolved into the distilled vinegar. You should now have a clear green liquid. This is called a nickel acetate solution, (that's a technical term that you can use to impress your friends down the pub). You can mix as much or as little as you need, this will depend on the size of the parts you want to plate.

I suggest you try plating something small to start with, and what better than a big old British penny – you must have one lying around somewhere. You will find it is easier to plate onto copper and brass.

Take your plastic tank or ice cream container and fill it three quarters full with the nickel acetate solution that you prepared earlier. Next you need to make the Anode (another technical term) from a piece of the nickel welding wire. I bent mine in the shape of a horseshoe but almost any shape will do. This is connected to the + or red wire on your battery charger and placed into the nickel acetate solution at one end of the plastic tank. This can be held in place with a plastic clothes peg or two to stop it moving about. The Cathode (yet another technical term) is made from the object you want to plate; in this case it's your copper penny. The penny must be well polished and degreased before it can be plated, the better the preparation the better the plated finish will be so it is well worth the extra effort. Once you are satisfied with the preparation, the Cathode or penny is connected to the - or black wire on your battery charger, which can be done via a miniature crocodile clip on to the very edge of the penny. Once the penny is connected to the wire it can be lowered into the nickel acetate solution at the other end of the tank with the flat face of the coin facing the anode, you should now have the tank set up like this:



One final check to see that both the anode and cathode connections are OK, and more importantly the two are not touching! And it is time to plug in and switch on the battery charger. Once the battery charger is switched on, you will see lots of tiny bubbles forming on the penny. Once you see this, you know that the plating has started. At this point you should check the ammeter on the battery charger; it should be reading about 2 to 3 amps. You can move the penny nearer to the anode to make the amperage go up but don't let the penny touch the anode, if they do touch each other it will leave a pit mark on the plating and may even blow the fuse on your battery charger. Once you are happy with the set-up, let the process run for a few minutes then turn off the power and remove the coin. You should be able to see a thin layer of nickel on the face of the coin, if so, congratulations!!! You have just done your first nickel plating.

And there's more

Now that you have the basic nickel plating set-up working it's time to experiment. You may have noticed that the plating is only on one side of your penny. This is because the positive charge only flows in a straight line from the anode to the cathode. There are two ways round this: you can plate one side of the coin and then turn it round and plate the other, or you can put an extra anode in the other end of the tank and have the penny in the middle. This will plate both sides at once, in fact with some objects you can have lots of anodes all around the tank so you can get the result you are after. It's all down to experimentation to see what works best for you. If you find the plating is a little dull when you remove the object from the tank, it can be buffed up with a soft rag to bring out the shine. It also helps if you keep the nickel acetate solution moving around the tank when the plating is taking place. This can be done gently by hand with a wooden spatula or you could use an aeration stone and air pump like the ones they use in fish tanks. The nickel acetate solution can be used more than once so when you have finished plating it should be filtered. I use coffee filters and put back in its bottles and stored in a dark place ready for next time. So there you are Nickel Plating at home....

HAVE FUN!

Stuart Dale

Editor's note: Many thanks to Stuart for his most informative article. Just a quick note to would be amateur platers – don't try plating steel, because it won't work! Ferrous materials need to be copper plated first, before nickel or chrome. Either Stuart or myself intend experimenting with copper plating, so watch this space.

Restoration News

From Sunny Cyprus

By Maurice Felce

Two years ago we decided to leave the UK for a warmer, sunnier climate in Cyprus. The laws there were such that we were unable to take any gambling machines with us other than allwin or skill games, which was just as well as I had, over the years, a few restoration projects that I'd never got around to.

One machine that I purchased from a car boot, at an Auction in Saffron Walden, was a Bulldog (or rather one "front" not complete would be more accurate). So, this machine that I started to restore in England and finished in Cyprus, has taken me just over two years. I already had a similar cabinet but I must sincerely thank Tony Atkins for helping me with some missing parts. After the odd adjustment this machine is working well and can become addictive! (Although not to the extent as a Payramid).

The original manufacturer I believe was The Skill Automatic Machine Co. of 108 John Street, Glasgow. The machine is basically a catching game and with each ball caught an "Allies Flag" appears in the window. When five balls are caught, and the flags are hoisted, a check is delivered and subsequently after each further ball caught. I'm not certain how many balls there should be but the game works well with two, more tend to cause a problem.

ALLWIN RESERVE

Another machine I have restored was originally an Allwin Reserve with token payout, but some kind person had removed the token tube making it just an ordinary five win allwin with old penny payout. The velvet backcloth had been replaced with blue plastic, although some of the other pieces were left in place.

I had a replacement for the token tubes, and with some Burgundy velvet cloth to replace the plastic, the machine has now been returned to its former glory.

I hope you enjoy looking at the photographs, and now it's onto the next project but as everyone says, "You never know where the time goes when you retire" and believe me it's 100% true!!

Best wishes

Maurice and Pat



*Two lovely restorations from Maurice:
Bulldog above, and to the right the
beautifully restored allwin reserve.*



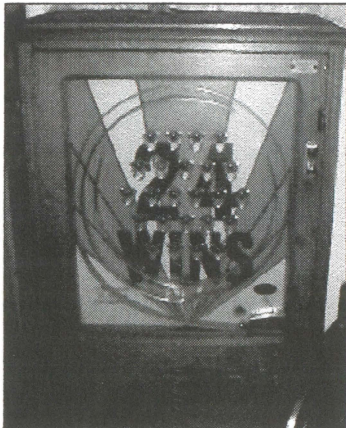
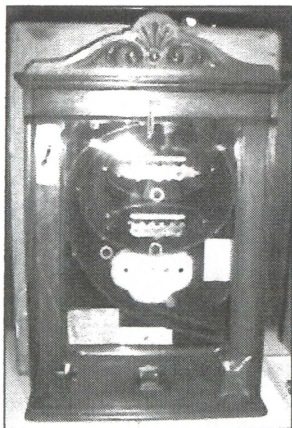
Coventry '09 Preview

With 280 lots, this will be our biggest event ever, so there should truly be something for everyone this time. Many thanks to the vendors, who as usual, have come up with a great selection of lots. It's good to welcome a few new vendors entering lots for the first time, as well as welcoming back the 'old faithfuls' who can always be relied upon. Machines on offer will sell for several hundred to several thousand pounds, and for those on a tight budget and like a challenge, there are plenty of bargain basement machines too. So, something to suit all pockets.

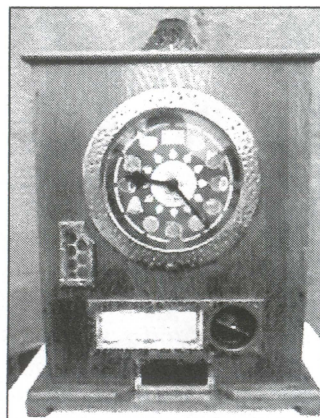
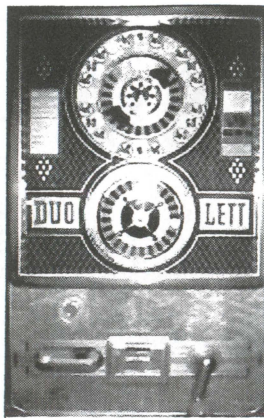
The selection of allwins includes Saxony allwin reserve machines, Whales 24 Cup, Each Way and All Winners. Wonders 24 Cup, Arcade and Ringla. Bryans Elevenses and Pilwin. Several sweetie allwins, and for the more discerning collector, one of the star lots this year is a rare Edgerton Double Event machine. In all the years I've been collecting, I think I can only recall two of these coming up for sale, so here's a rare opportunity to acquire a most desirable machine.

Other wall machines include a nice Clown Catcher, Circle Skill, Tivoli, Zodiac fortune teller, Bradley Challenger, German wall machines, several counter-top pushers, and a very rare Bradshaw Noughts & Crosses machine. Bryans machines include Clocks, Woriborl, Bullion, and once again we have a Payramid on offer.

The 'bandit men' will have a field day this year, with over forty one-armed bandits on offer; I can't recall if I've seen so many at an auction. There will certainly be something to suit all pockets in the bandit department, from the lower end Aristocrats,



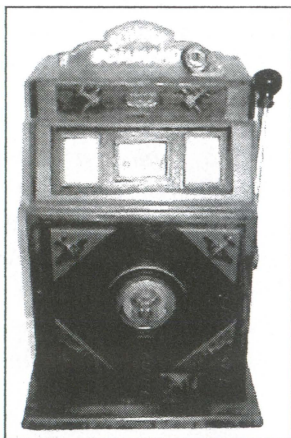
Left to right: *Edgerton Double Event * Giant multi cup * Oliver Whales Each Way*



Left to right: *Lot 'O' Loot pusher * German Duolett * Bryans Clock, with fruit dial*

Jubilee and Bally, to a Watling Bird of Paradise Rol-a-Top (it must be many years since we've seen a Rol-a-Top at auction). Other bandits include Mills Hi-Top, Black Cherry, Poinsettia and Castle Front. Jennings Governors and Dixie Bell. Pace Fancy Front Comet and a rare Bantam. A very rare Bomber Command single reeler, which I guess is a Tom Boland conversion. There is also a very nice Sega Hi-Top, with jackpot and gold award, which is believed to have been a salesman's demonstrator.

So another great show awaits us. This is YOUR day, and it only happens once a year, so don't miss it! See you all on the 29th.



Left to right: *Jennings Dixie Bell * Bomber Command * Sega Hi-Top*
Front Cover: *Watling Bird of Paradise Rol-a-Top*

Coventry '09

I know from the emails and 'phone calls I've received, that you're all looking forward to the biggest slotties' event in your calendars, and why not? It only happens once a year! For the benefit of those who will be attending for the first time (and as a reminder to the rest), here are a few points:

Entrance is strictly by catalogue only, so order yours now! Doors will open at 10.30 am for viewing, during which time various goodies will be on sale from the sales tables. The auction will commence at about mid day (a little earlier this time, due to the number of lots), and please note that this is a cash only auction – no cards, cheques, promises, sexual favours etc. (although the latter may be negotiable)! Please also note that we will not be paying in or out until the end of the auction, so if you wish to go early, please do not bid – there will be no exceptions.

I think we've got the message across by now, but for the benefit of newbies, there is to be no buying, selling, dealing in the car park. Jeremy and I put in an enormous amount of work to put these events together, and we do not believe that it is fair (and most of you agree) that a small minority should try to avoid paying a meagre 6% commission. We certainly do not want to see unsold auction lots flogged off in the carpark afterwards. If anyone attempts to sell you something outside of the auction, please let me know.

As I stated last month, we will allow children to attend, but please use your judgement as to whether this is the right place for your kids. Several hours can seem like days to a bored child, and make no mistake that we will throw out any child that we consider to be a nuisance. We will certainly not admit small children, babies or toddlers. We haven't had any problems in the past, but we will not allow disruptive brats to spoil the enjoyment of others. As always, if you intend to bring children, we must know in advance. Call me on 07710 285360.

**So, we look forward to seeing you all on the 29th.
This is YOUR day, don't miss it. And above all else, ENJOY!**

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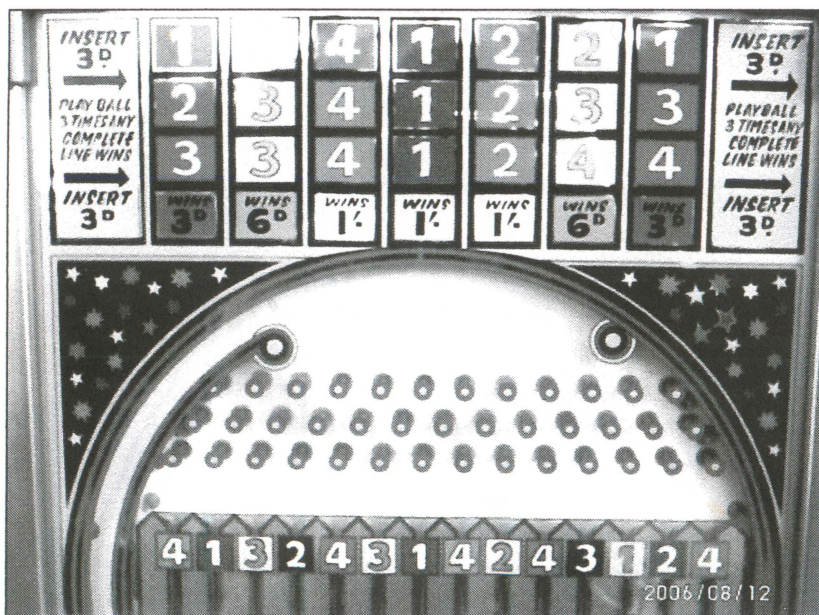
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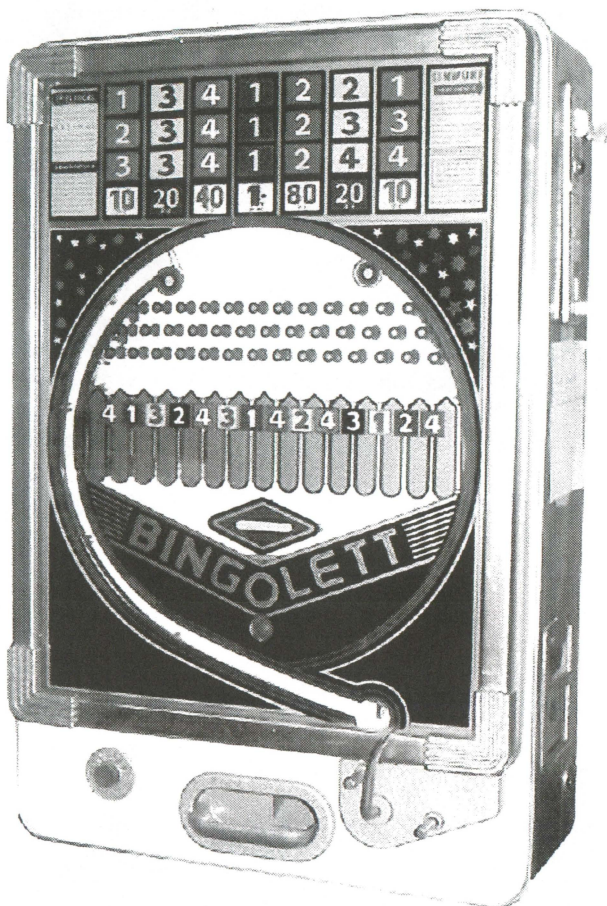
Playing the Slots Part 5

By Robert Rowland

Welcome back to the 1960s. Today I am entering a smallish arcade in Mablethorpe, up the High street, called Jackson's Radio (simply called this because to the right of the arcade is a radio & TV shop). As I walk into this arcade, I see in the centre of the floor a Cromptons 8 player **Penny on Ice** pusher – beautiful machine, quite a crowd round that one. Past that, on the right-hand wall is the machine I intend to play. My trouser pocket is loaded with 3d bits that I have just won on the 3d Derby Racer in another arcade. My slot is in sight, it's a German wall machine called **Bingolett**. 3d a go, lowest win is 3d and the highest win is 12d. The game idea is, insert 3d bit and a pink plastic ball is released, then fired onto playdeck a maximum of three times. The ball can land in numbered columns marked 1, 2, 3 or 4. There are seven winning combinations of numbers on the payout board, any straight line down can pay 3d, 6, or 12d.



Detail of the Bingolett payout schedule. Note that the three centre columns each pay out a shilling, which is only four times the stake of 3d. The three centre columns on the original German version appear to be more generous (see opposite page).



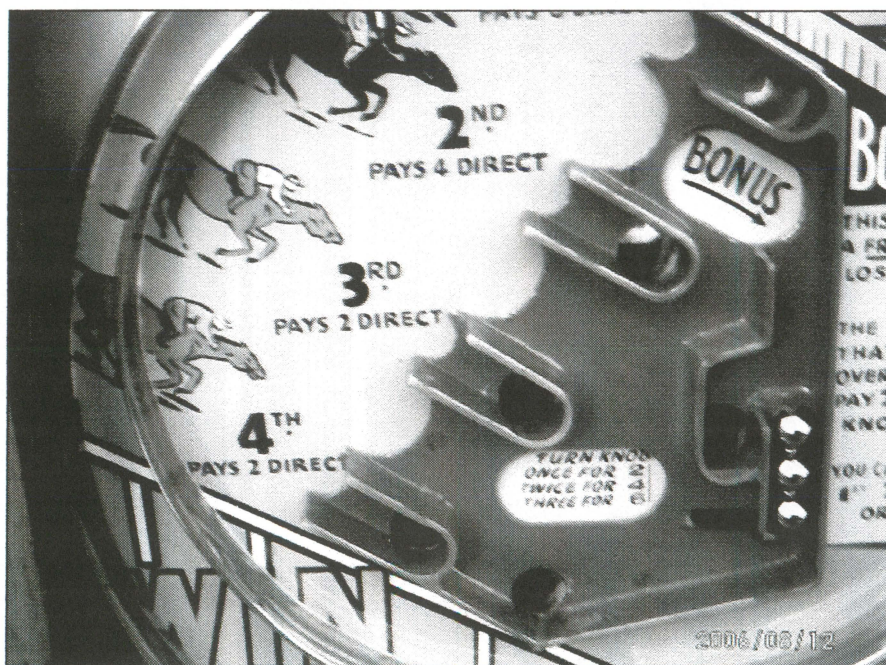
Bingolett, by Gunter Wulff, 1959

Looks easy this, lets play. 3d in, flick, ball landed in 4, which lights up the 4s on columns 3, 6 and 7. Flick again, 4 again, which lights a second 4 in column 3. I now need another 4 to win the 12d. Flick, landed in 3, I lose. 3d in again, flick, ball lands in 2. Flick, ball lands in 1, my only chance now is a 3 for 3d. Flick, lands in 4 – 2, 1, 4, lost. Try again. Flick, 3. Flick, 1, so now a 2 or a 4 will return 3d. Flick, 3. Lost. Another one to the owner! This game is fun, but surprisingly tough to achieve a winning combination of three numbers. The forth 3d bit goes in, flick, 2. Flick, 2. Flick, 4. No win again! I love this machine, but I hate it taking all my cash. 3d in again. Flick, 4. Flick, 3. A 2 is needed now. Flick, bounce on the pins, it's gone in the 2. Winner! Dar da, dar da, two 3d bits have appeared in the payout tray.

This was not an easy slot to win on, but the amusement value was great. It's a bit like bingo, always seem to finish one number short to make a winning line, although you always have a winning chance with the third ball, which makes this slot very addictive. I ventured back later in the day, and lost even more.

Years later, I now own one, and I can truly report that Bingolett very rarely pays out the shilling. It's so hard to actually get three numbers the same in three consecutive spins. You get quite a few 3d wins (1,2,3 or 1,3,4). Very cleverly designed when you think about it. I certainly consider this slot to be a very fine addition to my collection. As I play it today, I can still picture Jackson's Radio Arcade in the '60s, and the wonderful memories that I spent in that particular place.

In fact, staying in Jackson's Radio, on the back wall we have an unusual allwin called **Win a Race** - maker unknown (unless it was made by Kraft. The case is almost identical to their **Extrawin**, featured in an earlier issue*). Looking at the slot now, we have four winning cups. 1st place (top cup) pays 6d; 2nd place pays 4d; 3rd place pays 2d and forth place pays 2d. Then to the right of these cups we have a bonus feature. At the moment, we have three lost balls held in this bonus – the next ball that lands there will cleverly release all the balls, and you are awarded a bonus of 2d. An unusual feature this, and one that makes this allwin a little different from others. To be honest, I've not seen many of these about; I know it is the only one in Mablethorpe.



Detail of Win a Race, showing the four winning cups and bonus feature.

Let's play. Penny in, flick, lost. Guess what? Seven more pennies, and every ball has landed in the lost hole. It is nearly impossible to hit a winning cup. Flick, ball has gone in the bonus side, dropped into the bonus hole, which has released the three held balls. I now turn the payout knob for 2d. I continued to play and five pennies later I actually landed the ball in the 3rd place winning cup – a win of 2d! I would imagine this machine is one of their best takers, wins are rare.

Years later, yes, I have one. Nothing has changed from 1966, the winning cups being diagonal are so tough to hit, it's just lost after lost! I love this slot for its bonus feature, although it's a lot of work to win only 2d. Playing on mine now, I realise that my 1960s spending money would not have lasted very long at all, had I stuck on this particular allwin. Very mean, but very clever. Does any reader have one? If you do, then you will know exactly what I am talking about – it is a fun game. Who would have thought me playing that slot aged twelve in 1966, that in later years I would have one of my own. Super days, then and now.

Robert Rowland

* **Editor's note:** **Win a Race** is indeed one of a number of machines attributed to Kraft, **Extrawin** and **Crackerjack** being two of the better known. There were many others, including a number of sweetie allwins. However, I have serious doubts as to whether Kraft actually built these machines; it seems more likely that they were merely distributors. There is no doubt a connection between the so-called Kraft machines and those labelled Amusement Machine Mart, which include **Time Limit** and the later version of **Extrawin**, and research so far points to Shefras being responsible for the manufacture of all of these allwins. I hope to come up with some positive evidence sometime in the future.

Lineage ads. are free to subscribers and will run for two issues, unless you instruct me otherwise. Please ensure I have your ads. by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Remember to include your telephone number and the area where you live. Post or e-mail to the address on page 2

For Sale

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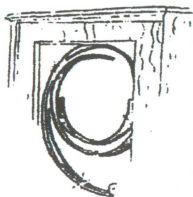
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ALLWIN TRACK

Grooved & chromed just like the original.

Inner with flat & nipple

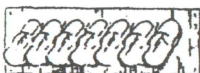
17½" inside length

Middle 18" inside length

Outer 40" inside length

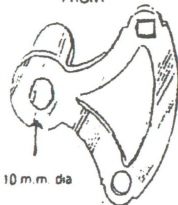


Win Tabs Red printer on Silver foil sticky backed 12 on a sheet

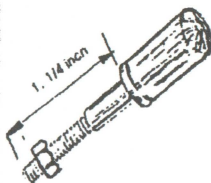


CHROMED 7 ball win gallery. 6 x 1. 9/16

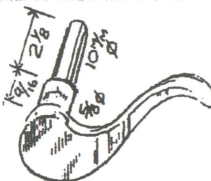
CHROMED TRIGGER FRONT



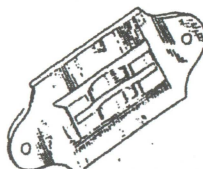
10 m. dia



CHROMED THUMB STOP



TRIGGER



COIN SLOT to suit 2p but can be filed bigger



CHROMED ARROWS Reversible.



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N01 Win Tabs (12 per sheet) £15.25

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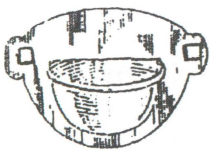
N11 Ball Hammer £4.95

N12 Ball Cups
1-5 £9.99each
6-10 £7.99each
11+ £5.99each

N13 Spandrells £14.99

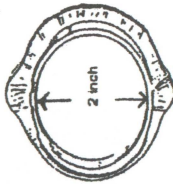
N14 Allwin Track
inner £19.00
middle £19.00
outer £23.50
set of 3 £47.00

CHROMED PAYOUT BOWL

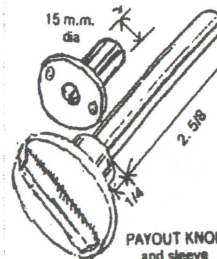


2 5 inch dia cup 2 x 0.25 inch fixing squares at 3.75 inch centres.

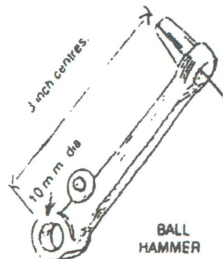
CHROMED KNOB SHIELD



2 x tapped M5 fixing holes on extended nipples 2. 1/2 centres.

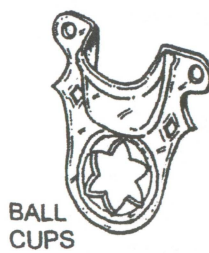


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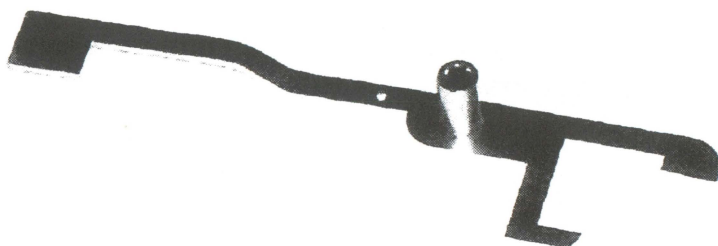
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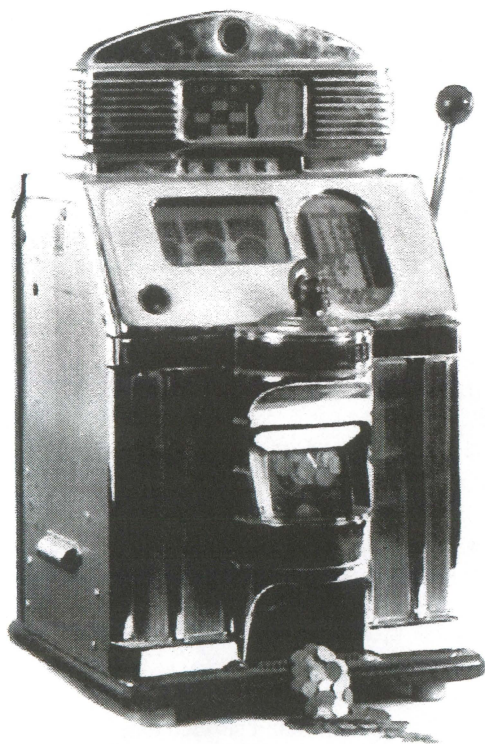
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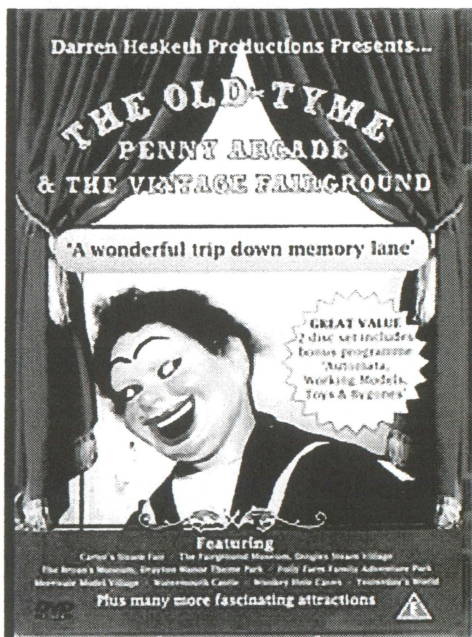
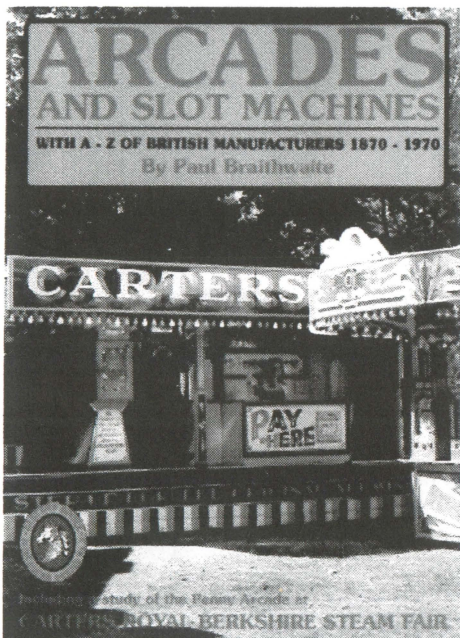
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